

Nashville Union.

For Freedom and Nationality!

S. C. MERCER, Editor.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1862.

Secession Shylocks.

That the overwhelming majority of active Secessionists are utterly regardless of the sufferings of the poorer class, whom they have inveigled into this rebellion, is a fact established by incontestable proof wherever the fiend of secession has passed. It seems as if in all those places where rebellion prevails, that men lose their humanity and generosity, and seek only to enrich themselves at the expense of whatever amount of suffering and oppression among their fellow-men. In no country in Europe has the spirit of extortion and rapacity displayed itself so shamefully as in the Seceded States. We published an article taken from the *Union and American* of this place last winter, proving that the secession dealers and tradesmen had become a band of Shylocks. And now we take a like article from the *Richmond (Va.) Dispatch*, lamenting the same state of things in Virginia. Read the paragraphs:

We have never heard of anything in the history of man like the high prices which prevail for every article of use and necessity. Everybody who has any thing to sell or dispose of seems to have no other thought than to wring from the wants of the purchaser the last dime that can be squeezed out from him, and to turn the screws upon the poor victim to the last point of human endurance. Seventy-five cents a pound for butter, thirty cents for sugar, four dollars and a half per pound for tea, fifty cents per quart for salt, fifty cents for a string of three miserable fish; a shilling or twenty-five cents a pound for beef, seventy-five cents a peck for sweet potatoes, forty dollars for an ordinary jeans coat, twenty-five for an indifferent pair of trousers, twelve and fifteen dollars for shoes, are only a few specimens of the gigantic oppressions which the rapacity and avarice of man are exercising on this community.

Now, let us make a few plain reflections on these developments made by Secessionists. For what was our Government organized? To secure the greatest good to the greatest number. Who constitute the large majority—the greatest number of all countries, our own included? The poor and those in moderate circumstances. Then what must be the consequence of instituting a system of exorbitant charges for the necessities of life? The hopeless and eternal depression and wretchedness of the poor. We call on the poor who have been used as tools by crafty and cowardly leaders in Nashville, to look at this startling condition of things established by the very men who have dragged them into the rebellion. The poor are paying in the Southern Confederacy prices for the necessities of life equal to those in London and Paris; and we warn the rich to look to it also. They have no guarantee that their estates will not soon be squandered by their children, and their offspring thus speedily transferred from affluence and luxury to abject poverty. Man of wealth, consider how uncertain is the tenure of your stocks, your houses and your lands. They take wings and fly away in a moment from their bewildered possessor. Beware how you aid in bringing about a state of things which may make your offspring, now dandied in the lap of fortune, hewers of wood and drawers of water for some remorseless master.

Nashville Union.

The Nashville Union, a new daily paper, has just made its appearance, edited by S. C. MERCER. It writes with great vigor, and is bold as a lion.—*Albany (N.Y.) Journal*.

A NEW IMPLEMENT OF WAR.—The Cincinnati *Gazette*, speaking with regard to the trial of it, says: A heavy malleable iron target, two inches in thickness, lined with eight inches of solid oak, was perforated through and through with this new missile. Only one pound and a quarter of powder and a ten-pound ball from a three-inch Dahlgren was used. The experiment was a complete success, and exceeds anything ever before accomplished. The improvement, which consists in the sabot and ball, both being constructed upon a plan not heretofore adopted, claims the serious attention of the Government. It is thought by scientific artillerymen who witnessed the test, that with twenty-five pounds of powder, and a 100-pound shot—no iron-clad vessel that can float, will withstand it.

Who are Qualified Voters?

The Nashville Union and American, recently the great rebel organ of this State, conducted under the eye of Isham Harris, contained the following editorial, on Tuesday, July 30, 1861:

WHO ARE QUALIFIED VOTERS?

This question has been suggested to us by the following communication from a friend in this county. Can a man, who does not acquiesce in the action of his State and obstinately refuses to acknowledge allegiance to the Confederate States, legally vote at the election on Thursday? We think not. As long as Tennessee was one of the United States, no man was entitled to a vote who was not a citizen of the same. Now that she is a lawful member of the Confederate States, no one ought to be entitled to a vote who was not a citizen of the same, and is ready to declare his allegiance, and challenge. Otherwise rebels against her authority, and traitors against the Government, may exercise the great franchise of voting. Let the inspectors of elections see to this important point.—The following is the communication referred to:

A COUNTER REVOLUTION.

An enthusiastic William H. Polk man, writing from this city to a man in the country, seems anxious to get up a counter revolution against Governor Harris. He says, in his letter: "Out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh, but I feel such an interest in the election for Governor, that I cannot remain silent.—If my views do not accord with your own, burn this sheet and excuse me. I write in sincerity, have no ends to accomplish but the good of my country. I feel sure, if you were to see what I see, and hear what I hear, it would astound you. In my opinion, we are on the verge of despotism. I look for an inauguration to be set up in the event that Harris is elected at the August election."

Col. Polk will not have time to visit during the canvass; he is now in the field. If you can think as I do, I pray you to do all you can to promote his election. He is worthy. If East Tennessee will give Col. Polk their usual majority, I have no doubt of his success in the election, and we have the best assurances that East Tennessee will be almost a unit for Polk.

If the writer of the foregoing letter will only reflect that Union banners were allowed to fly in the city, after the withdrawal of Tennessee from the Union, he will be satisfied that he has done Governor Harris a wrong, and that no "despotism" or "iniquity" would ever be dreamed of in Tennessee, unless the followers of Abe Lincoln should succeed in their darling wish of reinstating that ruthless tyrant in power, whose mercenary murder women and children, burn towns and pillage and murder the population, as they have advanced into the country. It is to effectually checkmate despotism and the inquisitorial dynasty, which has robbed the telegraph offices of private dispatches and seized the papers of private citizens, without warrant of law, that Governor Harris has effectually labored. He has but poor thanks for his patriotism, if any considerable number of citizens agree with the gentleman whose letter we have quoted. But this cannot be. Governor Harris has his reward in the grateful appreciation of his countrymen, as will be demonstrated by the overwhelming majority he will receive on Thursday next.

They will say, "we want no better man than this." "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Whatever may be the merits of Mr. Polk, the people will say, we have one that we have tried in a great emergency, we know him to be true, and we will not exchange him now, especially as we have requested him to serve us again, because we know that the State is safe under his guidance. East Tennessee may do as she pleases; we do not wish to control her people. But Middle and West Tennessee will stand by the man who has sustained them and their brave volunteers in the great crisis through which we are passing.

Consider this calmly, reader. Here is a proposition, seriously urged, to deprive a man of the right of voting—a Tennesseean—an old citizen of Nashville. And what provokes this proposition? Why an old man writes a letter to a friend, and the letter is broken open at the Nashville Post Office, probably, and it is found that this old man, who had been voting as he pleased for half a century here, had actually said that he thought Col. Polk was worthier of the Governor's office than Governor Harris. This was the "head and front of his offending." He, a grey-haired Tennesseean, dared to question the fitness of King Harris to rule the people! Wonderful audacity! And who was this old man? Col. R. H. McEwen. Presumptuous old man, not to bow your honored head in the dust before the awful majesty of King Isham! And now let us hear some incoherent rebel upon his mission to plead against the tyranny of Abe Lincoln, and for the mild and liberal sway of Jeff. Davis. Speak out, rebels!

Ninety Kentucky mules have been sent to Port Royal, to be used in preparing the land for cotton planting.

Meroz Saidwir.

There used to flourish here a little swarthy, wild-eyed preacher named S. D. BALDWIN. He wrote a whimsical book on the interpretation of prophecy called *Armageddon*. This fellow, like a good many other parsons in this region, became a violent rebel, and while the fight was going on at Fort Donelson, and the rebel papers were predicting a grand victory for their side, he announced that he would preach a sermon on *The Curse of Cowardice*, to be leveled particularly at the Union men of this city. On Sunday he strutted down the aisle, and into the pulpit, looking for all the world like a turkey gobbler in pairing season. He stood up and drawled out his text: "Curse—ye—Meroz. Curse—ye—bitterly—saith—the—Lord." And then began to rant against white-livered cowards. Just then a man entered the church, his staring eyes looking wildly from their sockets, and panted out—"Fort Donelson's taken and the gun boats are close to Nashville!" Poor Armageddon jumped back as if he had swallowed a serpent. Squalled out, "Oh Lord!"—turned as pale as a sheet and then broke like a quarter-horse for the door, knocking down little boys, jostling old men, and upsetting several ladies in his frenzied flight. He dashed down street, and then vanished like the devil in a cloud of dust, and we believe that that was the last ever heard of poor Meroz-Armageddon Baldwin. The parson attempted to preach on cowardice and certainly for once felt his subject. He furnished his hearers with an astonishing illustration of his text. He always was a little flighty, but in his last sermon he was flightier than ever. His theme evidently ran away with him!

(For the Union.)

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., April 23, 1862.
EDITOR NASHVILLE UNION.

Sir: Our word *tantalize* is derived from *Tantalus*, one of the infamous wretches, who, according to heathen myths, was punished in hell for his crimes. "I saw," said Ulysses, "the severe punishment of Tantalus. In a lake whose waters approached to his lips, he stood burning with thirst without the power to drink. Whenever he inclined his head to the stream, some deity commanded it to dry, and the dark earth appeared at his feet. Around him lofty trees spread their fruits to view; the pear, the pomegranate, and the apple; the queen olive and the luscious fig quivered before him, which, whenever he extended his hand to seize them, were snatched by the winds into clouds and obscurity." Hence, when we are teased with false hopes, we are said to be *tantalized*. So, in the language of poetry:

There, Tantalus, among the Stygian bound,
Pours out deep groans, his groans through hell resound;
"In the circling flood, refreshment craves
And flies with thirst, amidst a sea of waves.
Tried to the water, he his lip applies
Back from his lip, the treacherous water flies.
Above, beneath, around his hapless head
Trees of all kinds delicious fragrance spread
The fruit he strives to seize; but winds arise
Toss it in clouds, and whiff it to the skies."
This fable of Tantalus fully represents the condition of the Southern Confederacy:
"Tough Tantalus you've heard does stand chin deep,
In water, yet he cannot get a sip:
At which you smile, now all can't would be true
Were the name changed, and the fable told of you."

What has it ever done but tantalize us with false hopes and broken promises? Last Spring the wise acres told us that by the first of August, England would interfere and break up the blockade, and this was one of the elements of power upon which the South relied for success. But August came and went and England never moved a peg, notwithstanding the predictions of King Cotton. Then the first of January could not pass without interference on the part of England, so great would be the necessity for cotton. It came and went without any interference. Another element of power upon which the Confederacy relied, was a divided North. Jeff. Davis said that the battles of the rebellion would be fought in the streets of Northern cities. Is the North divided? Does she not present a united front in this great conflict? I do not mean that there is not here and there a vile reptile which hisses and spits venom, but they are powerless and harmless for evil. They dare not show their ugly heads. In like manner they relied on a united South, and evidently predicted that such would be the case. This was the peg upon which King Davis hung his hope. But with all his ability and cleverness, he made a blunder. Indeed nothing but a series of blunders has marked the beginning and progress of the rebellion.

The same is true in respect to the reports which are circulated daily. They inspire hopes to-day which are to be blasted to-morrow. This is illustrated in a report which circulated yesterday through the town. It was reported in the morning that another battle had been fought at Port-Harg, which resulted in the defeat of the Federals and in driving them across Tennessee river. This report

was circulated as being derived from a letter written by a reliable gentleman in Nashville to a reliable gentleman in Clarksville. The excitement soon rose to fever heat at which point it stood till about three in the evening, when, because the report was not confirmed, it began to abate, and died out, I believe, with the setting sun. The spirit which secession has evoked, is beyond doubt, a lying spirit, a deceptive spirit, a bamboozling spirit. Why, sir, I am told that it is a constant enquiry at the Post Office by country people, whether they can send letters through the mail without having them examined.—"Most assuredly," says the Post Master—"We have been told not, is the response." A poor woman went into the office to-day and wished to know if she could send a letter to Missouri. Certainly, madam. "Thank God for that," said she; "I'm that one step towards peace!" "I hope so," said the Post Master. Well, what is the postage? "Three cents, madam." "Is it possible?" "They told me it would cost fifteen cents, and I waited several days to get the money, when I am so anxious to hear from my friends." What possible good can such lies effect in favor of Secession? People of Tennessee, you who make your living by toil, will you listen forever to these glowing lies? All your interests are bound up in peace and a stable Government.

AN UNANSWERABLE LETTER.

We give our readers this morning a letter from the distinguished JAMES ROBB, the eminent Banker of New Orleans, who beginning life a poor boy has for near half a century been identified with the fortunes of New Orleans, until he has amassed a fortune. He is one of the most vigorous thinkers in the land. Read his views of the great question of the day.

A SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

LETTER BY JAMES ROBB,

LATE A CITIZEN OF NEW ORLEANS,

TO AN

AMERICAN IN PARIS.

CHICAGO, January 15th, 1862.

My Dear Sir:

I have seriously regretted not being permitted the pleasure of seeing you before your return to France, and this regret is enhanced, since I have learned you, in your sympathies, were on the side of the secession of the Southern States from the Union. The South has my sympathy too, as against the persistent abuse of disloyal Abolitionists of the North; but it does not extend to any purpose it has of destroying our Government. Our divisions North and South, if its unity is once broken, would be never-ending; and sacrifices of men and treasure are of inferior importance to the perpetuation of the blessings of institutions, which the experience of three generations has demonstrated as superior to others, and as being best adapted to all the circumstances that surround us as a people. I am not insensible to the faults of our countrymen. If we have less of the perfections claimed by the polished nations of Europe in some things, we have fewer of their vices and imperfections in others; as in the general condition of the great mass of our people, there resides an intelligence and elevation of character that does not pervade older States, claiming to be wiser. If we have lost, in the excitement of our prosperity, some of the sterner virtues of the early days of the Republic, we may redeem them in the adversities of Revolution. The misfortunes of one generation are often necessary to the fortunes of another, as the inventions of necessity are to the hardening and sharpening of those qualities of mind and heart, which are the sources of the most brilliant virtues of mankind.

Having resided in the West for more than two years, my parents have afforded me opportunities of extensive observation, and rendered my residence instructive and interesting, and the reflections suggested by contrast with new objects, and a more just appreciation of the character of its people, have liberated me, not in attachment to old or associations, but many of their prejudices, and so common to all people who estimate and value everything from an isolated, instead of a general point of view, and inspired me with a higher sense of the value of our Union to every section, and that to surrender its beneficent empire, is to commit our future to the certain inheritance of a troubled sea, where we can see no place without being distinguished for its desolations and its shipwrecks.

The Presidential election of November, 1860, resulting in the success of Mr. Lincoln, was made the pretext for dissolving the Union; and this event is entirely due to a man who had for years been committed to the conspiracy of breaking up the Government, and on the assembling of the Legislature of Georgia, to consider a call for a Convention to pass an Ordinance of Secession, Mr. A. H. Stephens, of that State, appeared and delivered an address, in a spirit of wisdom and moderation, which, among any people not swayed by the passionate appeals of their leaders, would have wrought the happiest results. After the perusal of this able speech, I prepared a letter addressed to him and de-

signed for publication in New Orleans—a copy of which accompanies this—but visiting there in December, I found passion, and not reason, dominated in every circle; the bold were defiant, and the timid yielding; the time for exhortations and appeals had passed; and those who dissented from the clamors of an arrogant egotism, were regarded as enemies, and nearly all seemed inspired with an earnest belief that everything that imagination told them, was actually to take place; and owing to this unfavorable condition of public sentiment, I deemed the publication of my letter to Mr. Stephens as unwise.

An impartial and candid review of events since the ordinance of South Carolina in December, 1860, must be assigned to the period when the passions, invoked by the destructive war it inaugurated, will have passed away. But it is my earnest prayer, when some future Tacitus shall compile his annals of the greatest event happening in the recorded history of nations, it shall not recount the disavowance of a Union of States, and the fruit of institutions which every lover and benefactor of his race will lament as the most complete calamity that ever befell mankind.

Listen to the appeal of one of Maryland's most gifted sons, the Hon. J. P. Kennedy, dated Baltimore, May 9th, 1861, to the people of his State:

"Maryland has no cause to desert our honored stars and stripes. Out of this Union there is nothing but ruin for her. In the Union, dark as may be the present day, the stout resolve of Maryland to retain her fealty to the faith of her fathers will secure to her a glorious future."

"Let us not fall into the fatal error of thinking that the great interests of the Union are irretrievably lost by the election of an Administration we do not like. At the worst, the present predominance of a sectional party in the National Government is but a transient evil. We shall never have another, but through the ignoble surrender of the loyal men South. Even, indeed, now the perpetuation of such a party is an impossibility in the North. The excitement and storm of this day—it has for a season unweakened the propriety of the nation—is worth all the privations in the good it has already accomplished. It has forever put an end to that pestilent agitation of slavery, which for thirty years disturbed the repose of the country; it has forever put an end to sectional Presidents and parties; it has revealed a great truth to this nation—that the Union is above all party, and that peaceful brotherhood is the most beneficent of all blessings."

"Let us bring to our minds a calm estimate of our duty in this great crisis. There is but one issue before us, Union or Disunion. Every man in Maryland must meet that issue."

"Union on the one side, is loyalty, faith in the traditions of our ancestors, devotion to our historical Union, brave support to our country in its adversity."

"Disunion—let us not evade the conclusion—is rebellion, desertion of our duty, dishonor to our flag, voluntary disgrace cast upon the names of the brave and sage, who have made our country illustrious in human annals. It is prompted by the assertion of a principle of anarchy which makes all government impossible, a false dogma, which assumes a right of disintegration that may pervade every division of society."

Is it wisdom—may, common sense—to disregard the solemn admonition of this warning, and uttered by a citizen who has as little sympathy with Abolitionism as the planters of Louisiana?

The progress and settlement of the Western and Northwestern States have been accelerated within the last fifteen years with a rapidity that few persons, if any, who have not been the witness of their growth, can have any perception of its magnitude and importance; and whilst the attention of the people of the Atlantic Southern States have been engrossed with the idea that New England was chiefly the adversary they would have to encounter, they have overlooked, or rather been insensible to the power of newly created States in the great West; which, in numbers and resources, are equal, if not superior, to the population of the Cotton States combined. A similarity of pursuit, and the hardy energy, developed by the rigors imposed on a pioneer's life, have constituted them among the best material for a great army, to be found in any nation of people. In common with the sudden growth of the West, I deem it not unduly owing to cite one of its evidences, and as a comparison against the superior importance claimed for the carrying trade of the South, by a statement based upon statistical facts.

The cotton crop of the South in 1860 and 1861, numbered about \$500,000 bales; in the former, and 3,500,000 in the latter; making an annual average of 4,000,000 bales for these two years, which are known to have grown the largest crops yet made.

Five bales of cotton will equal a ton in weight; and the tonnage required to carry 4,000,000 bales amounts to 800,000 tons. The receipts of flour and grain at the port of Chicago for 1861, reducing the former to bushels, exceeded 57,000,000 bushels, and estimating thirty-four bushels as equal to a ton in weight, the aggregate tonnage will exceed 1,600,000 tons, or double that furnished by the entire cotton crop of all the Southern States. The tonnage employed at other ports on the upper lakes, not including Buffalo, will run up an aggregate even greater than the port of Chicago, showing the employment of transportation of the grain of the West, without any exaggeration of the products of the forest, and of meats and provisions, which are so great in amount, as being equal to 16,000,000 bales of cotton, and four times in excess of the large average crop of two years, one with another, ever produced in the

Cotton States of the South. The area territory in the West, which is now the prolific nursery of its gigantic commerce, is based on upon its borders, did not contain 1820, a population greater than 800,000 inhabitants, and only 300,000 in excess of South Carolina at that period. To-day numbers over 8,000,000, whilst South Carolina scarcely exceeds 700,000; and if we tend comparison in order to illustrate progress of relative civilization, one is grand and majestic, and the other languishing and decaying—one is creative, inventive, fertile in resource, and not bounded in its progress by the clog of traditions—whilst the other sullen and insensible to merit in anything, not of itself living upon visions nourished by egotism, and contemplating the ruin of our noble institutions as the grand end of aspirations and the consummation of hope, when all mankind are to recognize as the superior monarch of the world, and become the willing vassals of its power.

Change of residence has not altered our visions long entertained, but enlightened them. "I have in the past been a slaveholder, and would be so again if it was my lot to hold slaves. If the institution has failed and vices, the present generation is not responsible; on the contrary, no system of slavery in any age of the world, was ever more patriarchal, more beneficent, tin slavery in the States of the South; and the who seek to interfere with it, and who design to weaken its guarantees, are at the most mischievous and criminal of men, and it is their insane meddling, more than all other causes combined, that has impeded the Southern mind and heart with the settlement of disloyalty to the Union. But however intensified this sentiment has become from the persistent slanders of an insignificant class, its insanity is surpassed by the people of the South, in classing with millions of men in the Free State who freely gave to the South their sympathies, and who were animated by every motive of pride, every instinct of honor, and every sentiment of interest, to preserve it as a part of the Union, not on conditions of inferiority, but those of equality."

All sections of our country have to lament the depravity of its politicians, of their ignorance and their selfishness, and no section has been more cursed by their authority over the people than some portions of the South, and even among those who are the recognized leaders of the Southern Confederacy, one who is best acquainted with their history would be at a loss to find in it any records of devotion to any thing unconnected with the interests of party, or any proof of their ever having been identified with, or foremost in the advocacy of those practical measures of policy, designed to foster and encourage enterprise, promote the increase of arts, diffuse the blessings of intelligence, and fortify the South in the acquisition and possession of those advantages in improvement and progress which pervade almost every other division of our country.

Under any circumstances I should desire of any source, deriving its counsels from such a source. It can never prosper under such auspices, and if in peace, when all the world was moving onward, these men were the indifferent spectators of its progress, employed as the teachers of faction, the conspirators against a Government they had sworn to maintain, and the insistent instigators of hatred among the misled people of the South, what is to be its future, with its mighty fortunes committed to the direction of men whose history is illustrated by no virtues, whose ambition is regulated by no principle, and inspired alone by visions of power, only to be won upon the ruins of their country and the desolation of its homes and firesides? I forbear to reveal names and persons. My heart turns from the contemplation of their selfishness, and sickens at the narrative of the murders, plunderings and burnings, which it has brought upon a people who were once so prosperous, so happy, and so free.

The South is enveloped by perils and dangers that tend inevitably to the overthrow of the institution, which Mr. Stephens has, since his famous speech, proclaimed as the corner stone of its power. It is without the sympathy of European Governments; it obstinately ignores the counsels, and warnings of its friends; and if it blindly persists in following the deceptions imposed upon it by the egotism and impudence of its insane leaders, it will cease for generations to come to be the land of property, rank and influence, which was once my pride and boast.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES ROBB

Important Dispatch.

CHICAGO, April 9, 1862.
To General SAMUEL COOPER, Richmond, Va.
All present probabilities are that when the enemy moves on this position he will be met with an overwhelming force of not less than 85,000 men. We can now muster only about 35,000 effective. Van Dora may possibly join us in a few days with about 15,000 more. Can we not be reinforced from Pemberton's army? It is debated here as to the Mississippi valley, and probably our cause. Whereas, we could send off to lose, for the purpose of defeating Pemberton's army, which would not only sustain the valley of the Mississippi, but our independence.
G. T. BEAUREGARD.

There is no doubt of the authority of this intercepted dispatch. Beauregard makes a terrible mistake in regard to our force, as we will have double the number. We guess the game is bagged.